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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action, mailed May 5, 2003, should be withdrawn, and Applicant's Amendment, filed April 23, 2003, should be entered.

Applicant's Amendment, filed April 23, 2003, was responsive to a non-final Official Action, mailed February 12, 2003. In particular, box 2b, stating that the action was non-final, was checked in the Office Action Summary for the February 12, 2003, Official Action.

Accordingly, the Amendment, filed April 23, 2003, should be entered and the Advisory Action, mailed May 5, 2003, should be withdrawn.

In a good faith effort to advance prosecution on the merits, however, remarks in the May 5th Advisory Action have been considered, and Applicant submits the foregoing amendments and remarks which follow.

Claims 19, 26 and 33 have been amended, claims 32, 34, and 36 have been deleted, and new claims 37 and 38 have been added. Upon entry of these amendments, as well as the amendments in the Amendment, filed April 23, 2003, the pending claims will be claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-30, 33, 35, 37, and 38.

A recitation regarding the two-way shrinkability of the film has been deleted from claim 26 and inserted into claim 19. Also, recitations of claim 32 have been inserted into claim 19, and claim 32 has been deleted.

The dependency of claim 33 has been revised.

Claims 34 and 36 have been deleted and reworded as new claims 37 and 38 to recite that the total shrinkage is a sum of the linear MD shrinkage and the TD shrinkage.

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Support for these amendments may be found in the present specification at page 11.

On page 2 of the Advisory Action, the wording of claims 34 and 36 is objected to. However, these objections have been obviated by the foregoing amendments, whereby claims 34 and 36 have been deleted and reworded as new claims 37 and 38.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Advisory Action, the rejection based on the Dries patent is discussed. The rejection of claim 19-28 and 30 is obviated herein by the foregoing amendment, whereby recitations of claim 33 have been inserted into claim 19. The recitations of claim 33 correspond to the recitations of original claims 11 and 12. The rejection of claims 1-10 and 13-18 based on the Dries patent was obviated in the previous (April 23rd) Amendment, whereby recitations of claims 11 and 12 were inserted into claim 1.

On page 3 of the Advisory Action, the rejection based on the Bossaert patent combined with the Bleemberg patent is discussed. The Bleemberg patent is relied upon to provide a motivation for one to select a small amount of the polyolefin employed in the skin layer and to blend this polyolefin with the polyolefin (i.e., polypropylene) in the core layer to increase the adhesion of the core layer to the skin layer.

Neither the Bleemberg nor the Bossaert patent provide a motivation for one to select a small amount of the polyolefin employed in a skin layer and to blend this polyolefin with the polyolefin, such as polypropylene, in a core layer to increase the adhesion of the core layer to the skin layer.

The Bleemberg patent teaches that it is difficult to adhere certain non-polyolefin skin layers, such as skin layers composed of vinylidene chloride copolymers, polyesters, polyamides and/or polycarbonates, to polyolefin core layers. For example, the following is stated at column 1, lines 27-29, of the Bleemberg patent:

[I]t is difficult to bond polyolefins to vinylidene chloride copolymers, polyesters, polyamides and/or polycarbonates.

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There is no suggestion that a skin layer formed of one polyolefin, such as an ethylene-propylene random copolymer, will have any difficulty adhering to a core layer of another polyolefin, such as polypropylene. To the contrary, the Bosseart patent teaches that a skin layer formed of an ethylene-propylene random copolymer has no difficulty adhering to a core layer of polypropylene. See the Abstract.

On page 4 of the Advisory Action, the rejection based on the Schuhmann patent combined with the Bleemberg patent is discussed.

The Schuhmann patent also teaches that a skin layer formed of an ethylene-propylene copolymer has no difficulty adhering to a core layer of polypropylene. See the Abstract.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Advisory Action, the rejection based on the Keller patent combined with the Peiffer patent is discussed.

The Peiffer patent suggests that the addition of resin to the core layer promotes better twist properties. For example, the following is stated at column 3, lines 39-44:

By the addition of a low molecular weight resin the mechanical properties of the film, such as modulus of elasticity and tear resistance, are improved. Furthermore, the elongation at break is clearly reduced by the resin addition, i.e., the film becomes brittle. This is a property desirable for twist wrapping.

The tear resistance referred to in this passage pertains to the ability of the film to resist tearing of a twirled end during a twisting operation. For example, the following is stated regarding the prior art at column 1, lines 18-26, of the Peiffer patent:

Twistability is imparted to the film by adding to the PP homopolymer a low molecular weight hydrocarbon resin and by orientating the film in the machine direction. To facilitate processing on high-speed wrapping machines, the film additionally comprises an antistatic agent. Due to its principal orientation in the

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longitudinal direction, the film tends to split during the wrapping, for example, of candies, i.e, the twirled end may tear off at the twisting point.

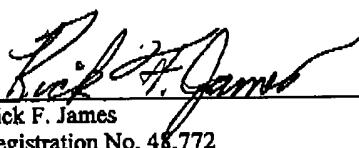
There is no suggestion of using the uniaxially shrinkable film of the Keller patent for twist wrapping. Accordingly, there would be no motivation for one to look to the teachings of the Peiffer patent and to modify the film of the Keller patent with a resin to improve the twistability of the film of the Keller patent.

The two-way shrink properties of the presently claimed films are particularly novel and non-obvious features of the present claims.

Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please amend claims 19, 26 and 33, cancel claims 32, 34 and 36, and add claims 37 and 38 as follows:

19. (Amended Three Times) A method for manufacturing a multi-layer polymeric shrink film comprising the steps of

(a) coextruding a first skin layer comprising a polymer, a core layer comprising polypropylene, a polymeric modifier, and a hydrocarbon resin, and a second skin layer comprising a polymer;

(b) stretching the film of step (a) in the machine direction (MD) at a temperature of 105°C or less; and

(c) stretching the film of step (b) in the transverse direction (TD),
wherein the core layer comprises up to about 15 percent weight of the polymeric modifier and up to about 15 percent by weight of the hydrocarbon resin, wherein said film is biaxially oriented so as to be shrinkable in both the machine direction (MD) and the transverse direction (TD), and wherein the first skin layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene random copolymers, ethylene-propylene-butene random terpolymers, propylene-butene copolymers, and low density polyethylene.

26. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein [said film is biaxially oriented so as to be shrinkable in both the machine direction (MD) and the transverse direction (TD), and wherein] said film has greater than 20% overall area reduction shrinkage at 135°C.

Cancel claim 32.

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33. (Amended) The method of claim [32] 19, wherein the second skin layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene random copolymers, ethylene-propylene-butene random terpolymers, propylene-butene copolymers, and polyethylene.

Cancel claims 34 and 36.

Claims 37 and 38 have been added.